

## Letter from Mary True to Mr. Booth, April 14, 1908, with transcript

Bethel, Maine, April 14, 1908. My dear Mr. Booth:

I am so much pleased with the Visible Speech Department in the April Number of the Review, that I feel impelled to write at once and tell you so.

The Number seems unusually interesting, but I am especially attracted by the letters and discussions in the V. S. Department, for I am sure that all teachers of the Deaf will be greatly helped by them.

I do not understand how such good results are obtained by those teachers who do not understand and apply the principles of Visible Speech; for the instruction of adult pupils who having lost their hearing have also lost clearness of enunciation. I find V.S. especially helpful, and for correction of manifest defects it is invaluable. I have used it for sounds in German and French.

How could a teacher show the distinction between and a distinction which I have always made, without the Bell symbols?

In teaching Speech reading also, I make use of the Bell Symbols, letting the pupil write exercises and of course read selections that I have written. I make great use of the symbols in writing words just as they look and requiring the pupil to supply the missing voice or voice with soft palate depressed in such a way as to render the word or phrase intelligible; for instance:— demand , or a word may be reduced to its 2 lowest terms and demand result in Anything to induce the pupil to translate quickly what he sees into the spoken word.

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This work is for home study and is better than giving a list of words to commit to memory, or at least supplements that study. Perhaps letters might be used in place of the Bell Symbols, but it seems to me that a letter commits one to afore-ordained notion of a word and sends the mind off into a consideration of that word and its connection with the subject.

May 11, I have come across this so long after the occasion, for it has passed, but I will send it that you may know that I do take great interest in the work.

Very sincerely yours, (Signed) Mary H. True.